

[12 December, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

Land Reforms as policy Instrument for Alleviation of Rural Poverty

2563. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ninth Plan identified the land reforms as an important policy instrument for the alleviation of rural poverty;

(b) if so, the progress report of the various States in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has expressed unhappiness over the lack of progress in this regard in the midterm plan appraisal; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and action proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) The schemes/activities undertaken towards land reforms have brought about a significant change in agrarian structure. 92% of the holdings in the country are now wholly-owned and self-operative. Ownership rights have been granted to 20 million tillers and 5.31 million acres of ceiling surplus land have been distributed to 5.54 million rural poor. Moreover, 14.75 million acres of Government Wastelands and 2.18 million acres of Bhoodanland have also been distributed among the eligible rural poor. 12.42 million tenants have their rights protected over an area of 15.63 million acres of land and 0.43 million acres of alienated land has been restored to STs. The Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records is being implemented in 569 districts of the country.

The Planning Commission in its mid-term plan appraisal had observed that several factors had constrained the progress of Computerisation of Land Records such as delay in transfer of funds to the implementing authority by the State Governments, power shortages and delay in the construction of room with air conditioner for installation of computers and other equipments, delay in development of appropriate and comprehensive software as per requirement of the State Governments, delay in supply and

installation of the hardware, lack of adequate training facilities to staff to handle computers and non-availability of good vendors for taking up data entry work.

With a view to speeding up the progress of the Scheme of Computerisation of Land Records, the State Govts./UTs were impressed upon to take effective steps for transfer of funds to the implementing agencies in time and also to take up data entry work through private vendors so that the work could be completed within a specified time-frame. The State Govts./UTs have also been requested to procure and install hardware at the earliest and organise basic training programmes in order to train the Revenue Officials at the taluk level to facilitate speedy implementation of the Scheme.

Funds allocated to UP, Rajasthan, Orissa, MP and Gujarat under ARWSP

2564. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the districts-wise details of the funds allocated to Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme during each of the last three years and in the current year till date;

(b) the details of targets fixed under the scheme; and

(c) the district-wise number of villages in these State benefited under the scheme during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Drinking water supply being a state subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the States. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Drinking Water Supply component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The State Governments have the full powers to plan, sanction and implement individual rural drinking water supply schemes. As such